

# The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, July 7, 2003

## *Previously in the U.S. House of Representatives*

**FHN student's artwork displayed at U.S. Capitol** – Joining 311 other high school student artists from around the country, Kimberly VanDyke proudly saw her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol June 24 during the opening of the 2003 Congressional Arts Competition exhibition, titled “An Artistic Discovery.” Kimberly, 15, was the winner of the competition for Michigan's Third Congressional District, sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers. The junior-to-be at Forest Hills Northern High School was selected as winner of the Third District competition May 3 for her raku-style ceramic mask titled “Mask of My Mind.”

*For more information, please read the full press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/062403ArtsWinner.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/062403ArtsWinner.html)

*For a photo of Kimberly and her artwork, click here:*

[http://www.house.gov/ehlers/photo\\_gallery/photo\\_pages/062403\\_KimExhibit.html](http://www.house.gov/ehlers/photo_gallery/photo_pages/062403_KimExhibit.html)

## **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **MONDAY, JULY 7, 2003**

*On Monday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. in a Pro Forma Session.*

### **TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2003**

*On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.*

### **H.R. 2658 - Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:**

Provides a total of \$368.7 billion in new discretionary spending authority for the Department of Defense for FY 2004. This amount is \$4.3 billion more than was appropriated for FY 2003 (excluding the amounts provided in the Iraq supplemental in April 2003), and is \$3.05 billion below the President's FY 2004 budget request.

### **Suspensions (3 bills):**

*(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)*

- 1) H.R. 1761 - Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building Designation Act (Wichita, Kan.)**
- 2) H.R. 2396 - Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office Designation Act (Duarte, Calif.)**
- 3) H.R. 2631 - To provide that the actuarial value of the prescription drug benefits offered to Medicare eligible enrollees by a plan under the federal employees health benefits program shall be at least equal to the actuarial value of the prescription drug benefits offered by such plan to its enrollees generally.**

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2003 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK**

*On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.*

**Suspensions (4 bills):**

- 1) H.Con.Res. 80 - Expressing the sense of Congress relating to efforts of the Peace Parks Foundation in the Republic of South Africa to facilitate the establishment and development of transfrontier conservation efforts in southern Africa.**
- 2) H.Res. 194 - Regarding the importance of international efforts to abolish slavery and other human rights abuses in the Sudan:** Resolves that slavery, under any circumstances, is an unconscionable practice. The subjection inherent in slavery inevitably leads to other abuses, including torture and rape. Human rights abuses and slavery in Sudan remain a matter of the most profound concern and the United States must resist attempts to ignore or condone these outrages.
- 3) H.Con.Res. 6 - Supporting the goals and ideals of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month**
- 4) H.Con.Res. 208 - Supporting National Men's Health Week**

**H.R. 2211 - Ready to Teach Act of 2003:** Amends Title II of the Higher Education Act, strengthening and improving teacher training programs to ensure they are providing prospective teachers with the high quality training needed to enter the classroom ready to teach. As under current law, H.R. 2211 will authorize three types of grants to improve the training of the teachers of tomorrow: State Grants, Partnership Grants, and Teacher Recruitment Grants.

**H.R. 438 - Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act of 2003:** Expands current teacher loan forgiveness available in the Higher Education Act (HEA) to address critical shortage areas in math, science and special education. Eligible math, science and special education teachers still must serve in a Title I school with more than 40 percent of its students from families at or below the poverty level. However, the bill would increase the total loan forgiveness to a maximum of \$17,500 for those teaching these high-need subjects.

**H.R. 2657 - Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:** *Information not available at time of publication.*

**H.R. XXXX - Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:** *Information not available at time of publication.*

**Historical Tidbits**

**On July 7 ...**

**1898** - The United States annexed Hawaii.

**1981** - U.S. President Reagan announced he was nominating Arizona Judge, Sandra Day O'Connor, to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

**1987** - Public testimony at the Iran-Contra hearing began.

**On July 8 ...**

**1963** - All Cuban-owned assets in the United States were frozen.

**1997** - The Mayo Clinic and the U.S. government warned that the diet-drug combination known as “fen-phen” could cause serious heart and lung damage.

**On July 9 ...**

**1776** - The American Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington’s troops in New York.

**1850** - U.S. President Zachary Taylor died in office at the age of 55. He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore. Taylor had only served 16 months.

**On July 10 ...**

**1821** - U.S. troops took possession of Florida. The territory was sold by Spain.

**1832** - U.S. President Andrew Jackson vetoed legislation to re-charter the Second Bank of the United States.

**1929** - The U.S. government began issuing paper money in the small size.

**1991** - U.S. President Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa, citing its “profound transformation” toward racial equality.

**On July 11 ...**

**1798** - The U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by “An Act for Establishing a Marine Corps” passed by the U.S. Congress. The act also created the U.S. Marine Band.

**1804** - The United States’ first secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, was killed by Vice President Aaron Burr in a duel.

**1979** - The abandoned U.S. space station *Skylab* returned to Earth. It burned up in the atmosphere and showered debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

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(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers> and click on “Write Your Rep.”)